



CE Response to LBH Consultation on tackling drinking-related antisocial behaviour in Wick Woodlands/Hackney Marshes

Andy Port
Superintendent Neighbourhoods
Central East- Hackney & Tower Hamlets)
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Dear Gerry,

Central East BCU fully supports the reintroduction of the Wick Woodland/Hackney Marshes Public Spaces Protection Order.

Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the London Borough of Hackney rank in the top 10 across all 32 Boroughs in London. A significant amount of this ASB can be attributed to those who are under the influence of drink. This is particularly prevalent in the Wick Woodlands and Hackney Marshes area where we have experience a disproportionate number of unlicensed music events (UMEs) and I suspect many are unrecorded by police and partners. We regularly have to use Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act powers, including the existing of a PSPO, to deal with the ASB and safely bring UMEs to a close. These events result in amplified music often until and beyond the early hours of the morning, disturbing residents. The supply and consumption of illegal drugs is often prevalent and the events pose a serious risk to any young and vulnerable people attending.

One of the strengths of a PSPO is that it allows an officer to instantly seize alcohol from those who are acting in an anti-social manner and does not target those who are just drinking and not causing any issues.

By having this extra power that is readily available at all times it allows police and Hackney enforcement officers to make early interventions and prevent the ASB escalating.

The commitment from CE BCU is that our police officers will enforce the PSPO where appropriate and ensure that its use is accurately recorded so that when it is time for it to be renewed there will be a record of its use available for scrutiny.

Thank you & best regards

Andy Port
Central East Neighbourhoods Superintendent